

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

-----x
SVETLANA LOKHOVA, : Civil Action No.:
: 1:20-cv-1603
Plaintiff, :
versus : Friday, July 15, 2022
:
STEFAN A. HALPER, :
:
Defendant. :
-----x

The above-entitled motion to dismiss was heard
before the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema, United States
District Judge. This proceeding commenced at 10:40 a.m.

A P P E A R A N C E S:

FOR THE PLAINTIFF: LESLIE MCADOO GORDON, ESQUIRE
MCADOO GORDON & ASSOCIATES, PC
1140 19th Street, NW
Suite 602
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 293-0534

FOR THE DEFENDANT: TERRANCE REED, ESQUIRE
LANKFORD & REED PLLC
120 N Saint Asaph Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 299-5000

COURT REPORTER: STEPHANIE M. AUSTIN, RPR, CRR
Official Court Reporter
United States District Court
401 Courthouse Square
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(571) 298-1649
S.AustinReporting@gmail.com

COMPUTERIZED TRANSCRIPTION OF STENOGRAPHIC NOTES

1 counsel waited too long to bring those suits. But the claim
2 that a British or an American academic is a Russian spy is
3 defamatory; the claim that a British or an American academic
4 is a counterspy for us, is not.

5 Mr. Reed and Mr. Halper certainly must have known
6 when they sent this letter that the things that they're
7 claiming are defaming him are not defaming him. He just
8 doesn't want the book published no matter what. And if he
9 can intimidate people into not publishing, then he'll do it.
10 But if they stand their ground and actually publish, then he
11 doesn't actually follow through on the defamation suit,
12 which is how we know it's a sham, it's false, it's fake.
13 There is no defamation except by Mr. Halper.

14 THE COURT: All right. I'm denying the motion to
15 dismiss. I'm going to direct that an answer be filed within
16 14 days. We're going to issue a scheduling order.

17 But I'm putting both counsel on notice, because I
18 recognize that -- frankly, the animosity between the
19 parties, that I expect this case to be properly litigated by
20 counsel, that I want the rhetoric kept cool, both in terms
21 of the pleadings, the written pleadings, and oral argument.
22 I don't want to see ad hominem, and I am going to make sure
23 that -- we're going to have to reassign the magistrate judge
24 because Judge Buchanan is about to retire. So there will be
25 a new magistrate judge appearing on the case. Don't be

1 surprised about that. That's the reason why that's going to
2 happen.

3 But hopefully you can perhaps even work this
4 matter out. We're always in favor of parties trying to work
5 things out. There is a good mediation program here at the
6 courthouse. Whoever the magistrate judge is who will be
7 reassigned to the case will be the first person you would go
8 to if you want the Court assistance with settlement. In
9 lieu of that, there are private mediators out there as well.

10 If you don't settle, then we'll start the
11 discovery, it will start very soon, and we will see you in a
12 few months then for further motions. But that's the Court's
13 ruling.

14 All right. We'll recess court for the day.

15 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:57 a.m.)

16 -----
17 I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
18 transcription of my stenographic notes.

19
20 Stephanie Austin

21 Stephanie M. Austin, RPR, CRR
22
23
24
25